REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed of October 20, 2003, in which claims 1-20 were rejected. With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 8, and 12 are amended. Claims 1-20, as amended, are now in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In the Office Action of October 20, 2003, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,272) in view of Calamera et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,533). With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 8, and 12 each require interfering temporarily with transmission of a message (claims 1 and 8) or transactional information (claim 12) if the message or transactional information includes information regarding or corresponding to the actual identity of the party wishing to send the message or transactional information, until the sender either removes that information or authorizes its disclosure in the transmission. Neither Walker et al. nor Calamera et al. suggests a system in which transmission is temporarily inhibited until the sender either removes information identifying sender, or authorizes the disclosure of that information in the transmission.

Walker et al., at col. 19, line 62 through col. 20, line 11 describes automatic removal of information that would reveal the identity of a party, but does not provide an opportunity for the sender to either remove information or authorize its disclosure before a message is sent. Automatic removal without input from the sender can result in editing of a message in a way that could alter its meaning or make the message unintelligible.

As a result of the amendments to claim 1, 8, and 12, claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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